

PROCEEDINGS OF THE RED LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

June 10, 2025

Pursuant to adjournment of its last meeting, the Red Lake County Board of Commissioners duly met in regular session at the Courthouse in Red Lake Falls, MN on June 10, 2025, at 10:00 am.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Flage called the meeting to order. Commissioners present were Chuck Flage, Al Remick, Eric Mickelson, Tony Gerardy and Andy Moran. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Mickelson moved, seconded by Commissioner Gerardy, and carried unanimously to approve the agenda with the following additions:

Highway Engineer, Taylor Amiot Re:

- RLC ROW Notification Letter
- Personnel Update
- CSAH 1 EMS Route

MAR-KIT LANDFILL

Dale Nelson, General Manager of Mar-Kit Landfill met with the board to review a new 10-year contract for solid waste disposal for the county. Red Lake County has been with Mar-Kit since 1993. The current solid waste contract is \$50 per ton and expires on December 31, 2025. The new 10-year proposal is \$60 per ton for the years 2026 and 2027, and \$65 a ton for the years 2028 through 2035. Nelson commented that the facility is designed for a 32-year lifespan and is currently processing an average of 225 tons per day. Nelson asked that the county review the contract language, and if in agreement may approve it any time before year end. A copy of the document will be forwarded to the County Attorney for review.

ENVIRONMENTAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

At the last board meeting, the status of the landfill and proposed next steps were discussed considering new MPCA rules. The County had been moving forward with plans to install monitoring wells and continue operating the landfill without a liner or leachate system, but newly proposed rules would limit unlined facilities to operating for 2, 5, or 8 years, each with increasingly costly cover requirements. A Teams meeting with Stantec, Senator Mark Johnson, and MPCA representatives revealed that, while MPCA did not directly object to Red Lake County's previous plans, the new rules would still apply. The board expressed concern about the financial burden, especially considering ongoing costs like well monitoring and potential PFAS testing. A proposal is now being considered to continue operating for up to nine years without installing monitoring wells or a liner, excavating a small area for additional demo space at lower cost. If denied, closure planning may begin immediately. The board also discussed a federal SWIFR grant application that passed initial review, with award decisions expected in winter 2025. If awarded, those funds could be used for a future transfer station and related infrastructure. The board remains concerned about potential MPCA fines and lack of clear support from the state and agreed to proceed cautiously with the proposal while exploring all feasible options for the landfill's future.

HIGHWAY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Highway Engineer Taylor Amiot presented a draft letter to the board intended for a local landowner concerning windblown sediment accumulating in the public road right-of-way. The board agreed that Red Lake County Soil and Water should be copied on the letter as well.

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A personnel update was discussed that prior to for former Foreman, the County had a working supervisor model, with past foreman operating trucks while supervising. The idea of reinstating a working supervisor was considered, but concerns were raised about current workloads and whether such a model would be logistically feasible. Budget-wise, there's potential cost savings if a working supervisor model is used, but it would likely require additional compensation. Overall, while a working supervisor could boost morale and save money, logistical challenges and union considerations may complicate the idea.

An update was given on the CASH 1 EMS route impacted by a road closure due to a bypass construction project. Initially, a full gravel bypass was considered but rejected due to high cost (\$80–100k). Instead, the contractor agreed to leave a portion of the old road in place using reclaimed asphalt millings, allowing emergency services (EMS, fire, sheriff) to access it in case of emergencies by moving barricades.

MINUTES

Commissioner Gerardy moved, seconded by Commissioner Moran, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the meeting on May 27th, 2025.

EXPENDITURES

Commissioner Mickelson moved, seconded by Commissioner Remick, and carried unanimously to approve the following expenditures for the period.

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Houston Engineering, Inc	\$ 62,879.00
Kiecker Coatings	\$ 32,537.50
North Star Neighbors	\$ 20,000.00
Penguin Management, Inc.	\$ 3,060.00
Red Lake County Co-op	\$ 2,621.58
The Sherwin-Williams Company	\$ 3,644.65
Ziegler Cat	\$ 2,074.41
22 Payments less than \$2,000	<u>\$ 7,348.11</u>
Total	\$134,165.25

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Remick – Tri-County Corrections Advisory Board, Tri-County Corrections, Association of Minnesota Counties

Mickelson – None

Gerardy – Association of Minnesota Counties, Red Lake County Soil & Water

Moran – Tri-County Corrections, Association of Minnesota Counties

Flage – None

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Moran, seconded by Commissioner Remick, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 12:16 p.m. The next regular meeting of the board is scheduled for Tuesday, June 24th, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.

Attest: _____
Kelsey Gervais, County Auditor

Chuck Flage, Chairman
Board of Commissioner